

A retrospect.

The refusal of the Republican members of Congress at the regular session last winter to accede to any terms for compromising the sectional differences of the country, has brought upon the nation a fearful civil war and all the dire calamities attending it. The Crittenden amendments would have been satisfactory to the country. JEFF. DAVIS and TOOMBS, of Georgia, both stated that that proposition would be accepted by them and would be acceptable to the South. But that Olive Branch of peace and Union was rejected by Republican votes. A Peace Congress assembled in which the Border Slave States were represented, and most of the Northern States by Republican delegates. That body agreed upon propositions which would have reconciled the Border States within the Union, but they were likewise rejected by Republican votes. The very terms of adjustment that able and enlightened Republicans were willing to concede to the Southern States for peace and Union, were promptly cast aside by a Republican Congress. And yet these terms of peace refused? We present this retrospect of the past to demonstrate that the Republican party leaders were unwilling to sacrifice the Chicago platform to save the Union. The very men and the press that are now so eloquent in urging Democrats to surrender party, to yield the principles for which they have earnestly contended, without any concession on their part, insisted that the "Chicago platform" was sacred and binding, and that they were to be Union men subordinate to the duty they owed to party. We do not intend to discuss the question of irrepressible Republicans, we quote an extract from the New York Tribune to show that they were unwilling to subordinate their duty to party to their duty to the Union:

Senator Seward, in his speech of Thursday last, declares his readiness to renounce Republican principles for the sake of the Union. In this readiness the Southern States find the almost incomparable majority of the Republican party, and from the President elect. They regard these principles as sacred. They will not forsake them at the bidding of a world of wailing and treacherous slaveholders. They see no necessity to choose between them; but if such a choice must be made, they prefer their principles to party Union.

That the Tribune fairly represented the sentiment of the party can not be questioned. The Republican Congresses echo the sentiments of that leading organ, by refusing all terms of compromise, even those proposed by a body in which Republicans were in the ascendancy. Yes, in the language of the Tribune, Senator SEWARD, in expressing a willingness "to renounce Republican principles for the sake of the Union," differs totally from the almost incomparable majority of the Republican party and from the President elect, "who prefer their principles to party Union." And what was the result of the Republican policy? Congress refused to do anything to encourage the Union sentiment in the Border Slave States. Soon after, Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee cast their destiny with the seceded States, and Missouri, Kentucky and Maryland are divided in sentiment. All of these States might have been saved to the Union, if the Republican Congress in March last had made even the concessions which they did, almost unanimously, save two Abolitionists, at the extra session. We refer to the following compromise resolution introduced by Mr. CRITTENDEN:

Resolved, That the present civil war has been forced upon us by the disunion of the Southern States now in rebellion against the Government of the United States; that in this national emergency, Congress, banishing all feelings of passion and resentment, will recollect only their duty to their country; that the war is not waged for conquest or subjugation, or interfering with the rights or the established institutions of these States, but to maintain and defend the supremacy of the Constitution with the rights and equality under it unimpaired; that as soon as these objects are accomplished, the war will cease.

If the adoption of that resolution was right in July, it certainly was equally so in March. For concessions which nearly every Republican Congressman voted in March, if but two (POTTER and RINDLE) voted for in July, its adoption would have been confined to the extreme Southern States and would have been comparatively harmless.

This is the history of the past few months. It is well to ponder upon the lessons it teaches. The Capital of the country is menaced—a fearful civil war is raging upon our borders and the whole country is upon the verge of ruin, and why? The almost incomparable majority of the Republican party and the President elect, preferred the Chicago Platform to party Union. They subordinated their duty to the Union to their duty to party. And yet these men, with such a record, have the unblushing impudence to falsely accuse the Democracy of preferring party to the welfare of the country! In every way have the Democrats shown their attachment to the Union and their desire to preserve it. They have voted all the men and money asked for by the Administration, and they number more than one half of the fighting men of the army, with no direction of the war or the Government. Yet the Democrats are asked to surrender party and principle to perpetuate Republican rule—with not a single concession on the part of the Republicans. Such is Republican patriotism and magnanimity.

The voice of Douglas.

The Republican press, and even some assumed friends of the late Senator DOUGLAS, are parading some of the utterances of the departed statesman as being in favor of the dissolution of the Democratic party—an abandonment of the principles and policy of which he was the life-long advocate and defender—a surrender in part to the sectional party who happen to have the control of the Government—the success of whom he ever regarded as the greatest calamity which could befall the nation. Mr. DOUGLAS believed that the Democratic party, that all parties and all citizens should be subordinate to the Constitution and the Union. The support of the Government upon the principles and for the purposes it was organized he regarded the first duty of every loyal citizen. This was the doctrine he announced in his late speeches and the sentiment he advocated. But the Republicans have placed upon the utterances of the dead Senator a meaning different from that he intended. What did he say in his last public speech? "Whoever is not prepared to sacrifice party organizations and platforms on the altar of his country does not deserve the support and countenance of honest people. By no means. He was speaking to men of his party. He is not equally incumbent upon a Republican as a Democrat to 'sacrifice party organizations and platforms on the altar of his country.' Republicans demand that of Democrats and are unwilling to manifest the same liberal and patriotic spirit. In the present great crisis of the country, when, according to Republican interpretation we are struggling alone to preserve a government, but to find out whether we have one, the Republican Administration devotes most of its energies to proscribing its political opponents for opinion's sake, and opening the door of the Treasury to its political and personal friends. We do not know which is the more apparent, the imbecility or aversion of its members by their own friends, and are willing to submit to the judgment of those who should know them better. That such men should attempt to shield themselves behind the patriotic sentiments of a life-long opponent, and

who, in one of the last letters he wrote, when con- sidered to the bed from which he never rose, said that he still entertained the same opinion of Mr. LINCOLN and the Republican party, their political doctrines and sentiments, and their deleterious influence upon the country, that he had ever ex- pressed, develops a large class of assurance. And yet those men assert, quoting DOUGLAS as justification, that Democrats can not be patriots unless they surrender their principles. If the surrender of life long principles is the "plat- form of patriotism," why do not the Republican party give some evidence of its patriotism? In connection we quote some comments from the Springfield (Ill.) Register to this point, a paper which was ever the steadfast friend and supporter of DOUGLAS and which now cherishes the memory, the patriotism and the principles of the departed Senator:

Threading such journals as the Tribune is, that all opposition to the policy of the Republi- can administration, coming from Democrats, is the result of partisan opposition. The Tribune and their sort say criticism, condemn, and appeal to the people for 'what they consider' errors, but Democrats must be dumb. Where the Tribune are satisfied all is right, it is "no party." There must be "no party" but the party of the Tribune. But what is the party of the Tribune? The Government does it right. They only have the right to exist!

Mr. Douglas urged a union of the people for the preservation of the Union. The Tribune urged the same thing to preserve the Republican party, wink at its abuses, cover up its blunders, endorse its legislation repelling all the policy of the Government engrafted on the statute books by Democratic administrations, and approved as wise and wholesome for the body politic by all parties, of late years.

Will the Chicago Tribune and its abolition party understand that they can not tack the one hundred and thirty thousand Democrats of Illinois as a tail to an abolition kite? Will they under- stand that the election of a Republican President exists, men will have their choice as to who shall serve them in public capacity?

If the Tribune's rule is to be observed, carried out to its logical conclusion, they should be no elections until after the war—no expression of popular will—nothing but unqualified endorsement of what the Government does, without the right to elect a President, and without the right to object.

Elections have to be held. Men will differ as to that, but the question is, will their votes be counted, will they be given for men who will entertain Democratic principles and who will adhere to Democratic policy, especially when they see all around them every day the marks of the hypocrisy of Republican politicians who see nothing in the present dreadful crisis but opportunity for party and personal advancement, and who, as Tribune has frequently remarked, if it will be time enough to question the sincerity of Democratic Unionism, patriotism, in Illinois, when Democratic numbers less in the ranks than the followers of the Tribune. As the former keep ahead all the time they claim, and whether admitted or not, take the privilege of canvassing, stirring up and supporting the acts of the servants of the people, and to conduct their part in elections, and cast their votes, "in their own way, subject only to the Constitution" and existing laws.

Douglas is dead. His friends in life, personal and political, will scarcely take the garbling com- mentaries of the enemies of himself and his prin- ciples, and will give to his utterances the force of his country first, and for party for the benefit of his country. His enemies can not successfully use his language in furtherance of the interests of the country, and will be counted only as the duty to their country; that the war is not waged for conquest or subjugation, or interfering with the rights or the established institutions of these States, but to maintain and defend the supremacy of the Constitution with the rights and equality under it unimpaired; that as soon as these objects are accomplished, the war will cease.

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The Union and the Constitution!

DEMOCRATIC MEETING IN OLD JOHNSON!

3,000 DEMOCRATS IN COUNCIL!

SPEECHES OF LANDERS, DAVIS AND BENDIRKES!

On Saturday, August the 24th, the Democracy of Johnson county met in Mass Convention at Franklin. From all parts of the county they came pouring in at an early hour in the day.

The procession of wagons and horsemen from Pleasant township, headed by the "Star Spangled Banner," and a martial band playing "Hail Columbia" and "Yankee Doodle," made its appearance first. The display was magnificent as it moved down the principal street and around the public square amid the enthusiastic cheering of the multitude. Then came Clark, White River, Union, Hensley, Nienrath and Blue River, all Democratic townships. The people—the Democrats—from among whom 800 men, the officers being, with the exception of three, Republicans, had already been furnished to the General Government for the defense of the Constitution and the Union, came up. Nothing called them but the deep solicitude each man felt concerning the condition of a country which was once prosperous, happy and united. There were no nominations whatever to make; no candidates had bestirred themselves in order to rally crowds of their special friends—the people—the Demo- crats—came only to testify to their undying devotion to the Constitution and the Union.

At 11 o'clock A. M., in front of the Court- house, the Democracy crowding the spacious area, the Convention was called to order by the Chairman of the Central Committee, John Whitesides, Esq.

On motion, Thomas W. Woolen, Esq., was called upon to preside. Mr. Woolen said, on taking the Chair, that the Democracy of the State of Iowa, and the Demo- crats of the county of Johnson, were gathered here to consider the condition of the country. It was the duty and right of all patriots of whatever party to meet together to consider with reference to the public good the laws, the measures, the policy to-day. Let us, while addressing ourselves seri- ously to the momentous reasons which have called us here, exert ourselves to maintain order. Let every man exert himself to the utmost to keep peace. Let every Democrat do his duty, as Demo- crats have always done, respect the laws. From was he to belong to a party which had no respect for the laws? Let us keep both sides and by compromise. I had expressed these sentiments, the like of which I express be- fore the Democracy will hear me to-day, and it was with a heavy heart that I saw the Demo- crats of Johnson county, accompanied by their fellow-citizens, do you think? I had taken the ground, before my fellow countrymen, that this war in which we were engaged was fratricidal and that it was a crime against God and man to keep both sides and by compromise. I had expressed these sentiments, the like of which I express be- fore the Democracy will hear me to-day, and it was with a heavy heart that I saw the Demo- crats of Johnson county, accompanied by their fellow-citizens, do you think? I had taken the ground, before my fellow countrymen, that this war in which we were engaged was fratricidal and that it was a crime against God and man to keep both sides and by compromise. 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